

**Task Force on the Future for Growth and Development in Maryland**  
**July 15, 2008 / 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**  
**The Maryland Department of Planning**  
**Baltimore, Maryland**

**Meeting Summary**

*Attendance*

*Members:* Jon Laria (Chair), Derek Berlage, Karl Brendle, David Carey, Virginia Clagett, Sandy Coyman, Jan Gardner, Richard Hall, Frank Hertsch, David Jenkins, Brigid Kenney, Gerrit Knaap, Dru Schmidt-Perkins, Caitlin Rayman, Asuntha Chiang-Smith

*Attendees:* Marty Baker (MDOT), Tom Ballentine (NAIOP), Jamie Bridges (BMC), Bill Costelli (MAR), Nicole Diehlmann (MHT), Candace Donoho (MML), Alan Girard (CBF), Les Knapp (MACo), Steve Lafferty (Delegate), Katie Maloney (Bldrs Assoc.), Susan Mitchell (MAR), Izzy Patoka (Governor's Office), Frank Principe (Balto. Co. Gov't), Josh Russin (GOCI), Joan Schaefer (PSCP), Kurt Sommer (DHCD), Elizabeth Weaver (MDA)

*MDP Staff:* John Coleman, Amanda Conn, David Costello, Larry Fogelson, Pat Goucher, Jenny King, Stephanie Martins, Marco Merrick, Matt Power, Sharon Reichlyn, Pat Russell, Eric Schmitt, Shelley Wasserman

*Welcome/Administrative Matters*

The Chair, Jon Laria, welcomed everyone to the meeting; then introduced Marco Merrick, MDP's Director of Communications.

Mr. Merrick advised that MDP is in the process of planning and implementing listening sessions which will include participation from the members of the Task Force. There will be five regional sessions in the evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Meetings are tentatively scheduled for the week of September 15<sup>th</sup> in the Lower Shore, Upper Shore, and Southern Maryland. During the week of September 23<sup>rd</sup> additional sessions will be held in Central and Western Maryland. Central Maryland may be broken into two sessions. Sessions are targeted to include stakeholders from across the State to give an opportunity to voice their thoughts on growth and development for the benefit of MDP and the Task Force.

John Coleman asked interested Task Force members to bring to the next meeting on July 28<sup>th</sup> their lists of contacts who should be invited to the sessions.

Mr. Laria encouraged members to attend as many of these sessions as possible, especially the ones that pertain to their own regions. Details on the sessions will follow with further details to be presented by MDP at the next Task Force meeting.

*Update: Infrastructure Assessment Workgroup*

Mr. Coyman reported that there have been several meetings so far, with the next meeting scheduled for tomorrow. Mr. Coyman said the workgroup expects to provide a more complete report at the July 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. Knapp noted that MACo's survey requested debt capacity and affordability information. The survey also gathered examples of the lack of alignment by State agencies.

Mr. Coyman noted that the demand for infrastructure is huge, and the funding comparatively small. Mr. Laria again emphasized the importance of identifying potential funding sources for such infrastructure needs.

### Confirmation of Smart Growth Principles

A copy of the "10 Principles of Smart Growth," and the "Eight Visions" from the 1992 Growth Act were distributed for review. The first is from the National Governor's Association, and the 1992 Growth Act – Visions came out of the 1989 Chesapeake 2020 plan.

Ms. Kenney suggested that the 10 Principles should include an acknowledgement that there are sometimes objective, physical restraints on growth, such as availability of water.

Mr. Knaap distributed a hand-out from the Green Book, with a regional focus.

Mr. Brendle distributed a handout containing several points about the definition of Smart Growth.

Mr. Coyman noted that the critical distinction should be between good places in development and bad places in development. He said that smart growth is "good planning" renamed. He also felt that there is a need to give equal time to something other than the automobile.

Ms. Gardner suggested the 10 Principles should be reordered so they are more intuitive. She also noted that, from the local perspective, smart growth is reflected by the efficient delivery of public services.

Mr. Knaap stated that the Eight Visions lack anything about housing or economic development and should reevaluate for this and other reasons.

Mr. Carey felt that progress had been made based on the 1992 Growth Act. He further noted that the 10 Principles really include a mix of broader principles and narrower sub-principles.

Ms. Schmidt-Perkins that at the time the Growth Act was passed, the visions were perceived as somewhat weak and that she believes they remain so today. She supported revisiting the Visions, but suggested we set clear goals and targets for that exercise.

Mr. Hertsch felt it is important to have visions and decide what the vision should be, but that the housing industry's function is narrower. If it doesn't meet its expectations of the public as far as

housing, it is a failure. Smart growth has to reflect a commitment to meet the expectations of the State's citizens. Mr. Hertsch said whatever these goals are they must serve those needs, regardless of how implemented.

Mr. Berlage felt the 10 Principles should be more specific, and that transit, in particular, should be mentioned.

Mr. Jenkins felt the 10 Principles of Smart Growth should be more specific and that Task Force should review the Eight Visions in view of changes since their enactment.

Ms. Chiang-Smith noted the importance of effective incentives to encourage development in desirable locations. Mr. Laria asked Ms. Chiang-Smith to offer the Task Force some information on incentives which have been discussed in connection with BRAC.

Delegate Clagett stated that water resources will likely be a major issue in the near future as a task force on this issue is issuing its report on the subject. She also called attention to the work of the Climate Change Commission, and suggested that its work should be coordinated with ours.

Ms. Rayman asked whether it was in the Task Force's purview to redevelop principles of smart growth and Mr. Laria confirmed that this was within its charge.

Ms. Wasserman noted that she views the word "vision" as an impediment, and would like to see the visions called something else, such as principles or policies.

Ms. Gardner noted that it is important to have a vision, a planning document for the future, not a legal document. Vision should still have an important role in planning.

Mr. Coyman also felt that vision is important and useful, adding it is the concept of where we are going and helpful in the process.

Mr. Laria suggested that the Task Force might want to review the Eight Visions more formally, and that he would consider and recommend an approach.

#### Discussion of Draft Recommendations

Mr. Laria asked members to present draft recommendations, which were organized according to the templates circulated in advance. These draft recommendations were memorialized on wall charts are being circulated to the Task Force as a separate document.

#### Public Comments

None

Meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m. --